

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
DEPARTMENT OF COUNTY ENGINEER  
PROJECT PLANNING AND POLLUTION CONTROL DIVISION

SFUND RECORDS CTR  
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ODOR AND GAS INVESTIGATION--FRANCISCO  
STREET, NORTH OF S.W. CONSERVATION LANDFILL

On March 8, 1973, I received a telephone call from Mr. Gary Nehrenberg of the City of Carson Building Department requesting an onsite investigation of the subject area. Mr. Nehrenberg had received a request from a Mr. Kostis Shirvanian, President of Western Refuse Handling, Inc., to investigate odors that had developed in their office buildings.

On Friday morning, March 9, I talked with Chief Joe Werner of the County Fire Department regarding a complaint they had also received regarding the subject site. Chief Werner said that he would have Captain Charles Wiest meet with Mr. Nehrenberg and myself at 10 o'clock for a review of the entire area.

We met on the site and proceeded to check methane concentrations in the Western Refuse business offices, and several of the buildings adjacent to Francisco Street. The Western Refuse business offices are located on Main Street adjacent to the driveway entrance of the Transfer Station. There were no detectable odors within the office space at that time, however 50 to 500 ppm of methane was found in a small coffee and supply room closet near the center of the building. Three other buildings on Francisco Street indicated methane concentrations between 2 to 5 percent which were found near cracks and joints in the floors. Several closets within these buildings indicated explosive mixtures of methane in the air space below shelving, etc. in the lower space areas. A machine shop located at the rear of the buildings indicated traces of methane coming from cracks in the floor in the 50 to 500 ppm range.

No other buildings were checked, however there are other structures within the methane migration range of the landfill. These structures include an apartment complex and the Golden Bull restaurant adjacent to the Dominguez Golf Course on Main Street; a residence on the east side of Main Street just north of Del Amo; a tilt-up slab structure on the east side of Figueroa, north of Del Amo; and several structures, owned by the Pepsi Cola Company, located north of the Western Refuse property.

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Odor and Gas Investigations--Francisco  
Street, North of S.W. Conservation Landfill, Continued

It should be mentioned also that a Mr. Louis Wichhart of Pomeroy, Johnston and Bailey accompanied us on the tour. He is interested in this investigation because of a gas barrier system that was designed by his company for Consolidated Western Corporation, the present owner of the S.W. Conservation Landfill. He stated that the system consists of a perforated pipe collector system buried 2 to 10 feet in the trash, extending the full length of Francisco Street. A venting pipe is located at the northeast corner of the site. Another segment of the system is located along Figueroa and terminates just north of Del Amo.

Mr. Shirvanian was not available for discussion upon completion of the tour of the buildings, so word was left with his secretary to call Mr. Nehrenberg at his office.

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